



The Index



95-3

A Publication of News and Events

December 1995

CONTRACT AWARDED

After months of delay, ground is about to be broken for the new water tower. The Commissioners have awarded a \$59,888 contract to Dolby Marine, Inc. to drive the piles which will secure the foundation of the tower. Seven bids were received ranging from \$59,888 to \$96,500. The pile driving should be completed by the end of February 1996. Once the piles are in place and tested for their load bearing



capacity, the primary contractor, Maintenance Services, Inc., will begin erecting the tower.

Originally delayed when the Commissioners decided to purchase land and change the proposed location from the County owned recreational field to a location closer to the Town's wells, construction was again delayed when the primary contractor projected a \$400,000 cost overrun for the foundation. The Town's Engineers, M. B. Carew & Associates, Inc., working with Maintenance Services, Inc., have changed the foundation to a more conventional type with only a minimal cost overrun.

SEMIANNUAL TAX OFFERED

Beginning in 1996, all Town property owners, as required by law, will have the option of paying their property taxes annually or semiannually. The total annual tax obligation with either option will be the same, however, those who chose to make semiannual payments may have to pay a small administrative fee and may not be eligible for the discount currently offered for early payment.

BIDS SOUGHT FOR TRASH COLLECTION

The Commissioners will be accepting bids for weekly collection of trash and garbage at the Town office until 12:00 noon on December 29. The Trappe collection route was taken over by Thomas Refuse Removal last spring when the contractor, D. R. J. Refuse, filed for reorganization and discontinued service. The Commissioners have been extremely pleased with Thomas's service, however, the D. R. J. contract is about to expire and a new contract must be advertised. There will be no interruption in service.

Residents are reminded not to put out old appliances, construction debris, tires, and other junk for the regular Tuesday pickup. These items will only be accepted on special trash

collection days. **The next special trash collection will be January 26.** Christmas trees may be put out for collection on Friday January 12th. or Friday January 26th.

Everyone is requested to use the recycling igloos at Shore Stop for all metal cans, glass bottles & jars, plastic jugs, newspapers, and magazines & office paper. Those who recycle help protect the environment and reduce our trash disposal costs.

NEW SEWER CONNECTIONS RESTRICTED

The Maryland Department of the Environment has informed the Commissioners that "the Town does not have any gross sewer capacity left for new development" and that "pursuant to Environment Article 9-512, additional connections cannot be approved until sewer capacity becomes available". This does not come as a surprise. The Town has been working for several months with the engineering firm of Davis, Bowen, & Friedel, Inc. to determine the most practical way to upgrade the Town's wastewater treatment facility. The engineer's final recommendation is to be presented to the Commissioners on December 14, 1995.

MUNICIPAL DEPUTY PROGRAM BEGINS



In cooperation with the Talbot County Sheriff's office, the Commissioners of Trappe have arranged for a part-time police officer for Trappe. The "municipal deputy" is assigned from the duty roster of the Sheriff's department and will provide 14 hours of police service within the Town of Trappe each week.

Initial response to the program has been very positive. The most noticeable change has been a reduction of speeding on town streets. Forty traffic citations and 39 warnings were issued during the first month (November). There were 14 calls for service, 6 criminal and 8 non-criminal, resulting 3 adults being charged.

The municipal deputy's patrol schedule is coordinated by Chief Deputy Blessing of the Sheriff's Office and Commissioner Harrison of the Trappe Town Council. Schedules are frequently changed in order to be more effective. Services provided by the municipal deputy program are in addition to the other services already provided by the Talbot County Sheriff's Department. Residents are reminded to call the Talbot County Sheriff's Office to request police services, or 911 to report emergencies.

FARMS LANE RESURFACED

Farms Lane is Trappe's newest street. Located off of Lovers Lane just past White Marsh School, this new street was recently taken over by the Town and resurfaced with hot asphalt paving. Along with their new street, Farms Lane residents are also enjoying the benefits of a recently completed stormwater management project designed to reduce flooding in this area.



Marvel Drive, Seymour Drive, Laurwayne Drive, and part of Harrison Circle have also been paved within the past two years. Main Street (Maryland Rt. 565) is scheduled for a complete renovation by the State in 1997 after which it will be taken over and maintained by the Town.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS RETIRED

After many years of service the "candy canes" and plywood bells, which for so many years adorned utility poles along Town streets, have been retired. The Commissioners received numerous requests to not hang the aging ornaments this year. Residents who would like to help plan or construct new decorations for next year should contact one of the Commissioners.

SANTA COMING SUNDAY DECEMBER 17TH.



All children 12 years old and under in the Trappe Fire District are invited to visit with Santa at the Trappe Fire Hall between 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. on Sunday December 17. Light refreshments will be served. Come share the spirit of Christmas with Santa Claus and our volunteer firemen.

FUTURE OF THE INDEX IN DOUBT!

The Index began publication as a monthly news letter of the Trappe Town Council in June of 1993. Originally conceived by former Commissioner Wieland, *The Index* is intended to help keep residents of Trappe informed about issues before the Town Council and other items of local interest. Short articles about school, church, youth, and community activities are always welcome.



In recent months, very few articles have been submitted for publication and *The Index* has gone from a monthly publication to a quarterly publication to an "occasional" publication. The Town's bulk mailing permit expires in January 1996 and a decision will need to be made about whether to continue publishing. Commissioner Crowell has indicated that he cannot continue to produce *The Index* without some help.

The greatest need is for individuals who can attend Town meetings and community events and write short capsule summaries of the most important happenings. One need not be a literary genius. This would be an excellent opportunity for a high school student(s) to gain valuable writing experience.

A great deal of effort (and expense) goes into the production of each issue. Articles are typed, graphics selected or drawn, and pages laid out and edited to make everything fit. 500 copies are made, folded, labeled, and mailed. Residents who would like to help save *The Index* should contact the Town Office. 476-3170.

CHURCH NEWS



A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR HANK

Amid the preparations for Christmas each year, there always seems to be a few voices proclaiming "Bah Humbug!" on the whole business. And if the truth be known, some of us may feel less than excited about Christmas ourselves. The expense, the crowds, the overindulgence, the hurried schedules and all the other trappings of modern Christmas celebrations are enough to make all of us take a jaundiced look at the season.

In the face of the humbug state of affairs, it is helpful to remember that God did not send Jesus to be creating turmoil but to be "in our hearts". Jesus is God's gift to the World--and to our hearts. When Jesus resides within, whether we enjoy or merely tolerate the flurry of the seasonal preparations, Christmas itself is a grand opportunity to say thank you God for the gift of the Son! As John so aptly put it, "For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him" (3:17).

In light of that, we are planning the following programs as opportunities to thank God together for the priceless gift of Jesus: A Christmas Cantata, Friday evening, December 22nd, 7:00 P.M., Trappe United Methodist Church. Sunday, Christmas Eve, we will have three services: Faith Chapel, Bruceville 8:45 A.M., Trappe United Methodist Church, 11:00 A.M. and again in Trappe, our beautiful "Family Candlelight Service" at 7:30 P.M.

In Grace and Peace,
Rev. Henry H. Charlton
Pastor

**TRASH COLLECTION
ON DECEMBER 26 WILL
BE IN THE AFTERNOON**

The Index is a publication of the Trappe Town Council. We welcome contributions to the calendar of events and short articles that are of general interest to the community. Events reported in *The Index* do not necessarily reflect the endorsement of the Town Commissioners. The Commissioners reserve the right to edit or reject any item submitted.